

Creation of Cossack Settlements in the Northern Black Sea Region
ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონში კაზაკთა დასახლებების შექმნა

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Abstract: The space of the modern Northern Black Sea region was formed over several centuries under the influence of various geopolitical, socio-economic, and anthropological factors. The dynamic changes in this region at the present stage, activate interest in the Northern Black Sea region's past and identify patterns in its urban transformation.

After the collapse of the Golden Horde, the Northern Black Sea region in the 14th century became part of the Wild Fields, that is, a territory that seemed to be not inhabited by anyone and did not belong to any state. Nevertheless, life was in full swing on the Wild Fields. People came to this region, freedom-loving, desperate, and simultaneously desperate, adventurers, defeated rebels. It is to such people that the Cossacks belong, who, in addition to the Zaporizhzhia Sich, founded hundreds of farms and winter quarters. Many of these settlements still exist today in a modified form.

This study will help to see in the geographical and historical landscape the general picture of the gradual colonization of the Northern Black Sea region in the 16th–18th centuries, carried out by the Zaporizhzhia Cossacks. At that time, the Cossacks actively explored the middle Dnieper region (as is commonly believed in historiography) and the Northern Black Sea region. Indeed, at the time of the liquidation of the Zaporizhzhia Sich in 1775, there were about 4 thousand farms and winter quarters created by them.

The scientific novelty of the work lies in the fact that for the first time, the geographical features of the laying of winter quarters by the Cossacks were determined. The composition of their population was clarified, the factors

demonstrating the dispersed nature of the habitat of various class, national, and confessional groups of the population of the Northern Black Sea region living in Cossack winter quarters were described; regularities of formation of such properties of urban space as continuity, homogeneity, and orderliness are revealed.

Key words: Northern Black Sea region, wintering place, economic activity, creation of settlements, Cossack

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აბსტრაქტი: თანამედროვე ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონის სივრცე რამდენიმე საუკუნის განმავლობაში ყალიბდებოდა სხვადასხვა გეოპოლიტიკური, სოციალურ-ეკონომიკური და ანთროპოლოგიური ფაქტორების გავლენით. ამ რეგიონში მიმდინარე ეტაპზე მიმდინარე დინამიური ცვლილებები აძლიერებს ინტერესს ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონის წარსულის მიმართ, ავლენს კანონზომიერებებს მის ურბანულ ტრანსფორმაციაში.

ეს კვლევა გეოგრაფიულ და ისტორიულ ლანდშაფტში დაგვეხმარება XVI-XVIII საუკუნეებში ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონის თანდათანობითი კოლონიზაციის ზოგადი სურათის დანახვას, რომელიც განხორციელდა ზაპოროჟიის კაზაკების მიერ. იმ დროს კაზაკებმა აქტიურად აითვისეს არა მხოლოდ შუა დნეპრის რეგიონი (როგორც ამას ჩვეულებრივ ისტორიოგრაფიაში სჯერათ), არამედ ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონი. ყოველივე ამის შემდეგ, 1775 წელს ზაპორიჟია სიჩის ლიკვიდაციის დროს მათ მიერ შექმნილი დაახლოებით 4000 ფერმა და ზამთრის კვარტალი იყო.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ჩრდილოეთ შავი ზღვის რეგიონი, გამოზამთრების ადგილი, ეკონომიკური საქმიანობა, კაზაკები

Introduction: The space of the modern Northern Black Sea region has been forming for several centuries under the influence of various geopolitical, socioeconomic, and anthropological factors. Dynamic changes in this region at the present stage activate the interest in the Northern Black Sea region's past and identify patterns in its urbanistic transformation.

The purpose of this publication is to define the types of Cossack settlements in the Northern Black Sea region and the Azov Sea region and the time of their existence. The following tasks are subordinated to the goal: to clarify the preconditions for the appearance of settlements; to define their types; to outline their location in geographical space; and to analyze the social composition of the inhabitants.

The scientific novelty of the work lies in the fact that for the first time, the patterns of forming such properties of the urban space as continuity, homogeneity, and orderliness have been defined.

Methods: The study used traditional methods for historical research, such as the method of analyzing historical sources, descriptive, analytical and others.

Discussion/Results: The purpose of this publication is to define the types of Cossack settlements in the Northern Black Sea region and the Azov Sea region and the time of their existence. The following tasks are subordinated to the goal: to clarify the preconditions for the appearance of settlements; to define their types; to outline their location in geographical space; and to analyze the social composition of the inhabitants.

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The creation of settlements by the Cossacks has interested historians and local historians since the 19th century. The scientific contribution to this problem can be divided into two categories. The first category includes studies devoted to one of the types of settlements, namely winter quarters, and the second category includes publications covering this topic superficially, in the context of the general history of the Cossacks.

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One of the first to talk about Cossack settlements was Apollon Skalkovskiy. In his publications, the researcher covered the history of the existence of Cossack settlements. In the first part of his work "Chronological review of the history of the Novorossiysk Territory: 1731–18 23", he mentioned winter quarters (zymivnyky) and slobodas where family Cossack atamans and farmers lived (Skalkovsky, 1836: 7). In his more thorough book "History of the Nova Sich", in the VII chapter entitled "Public Economy, Revenues and Duties of the Zaporizhian Host", information is collected about the location of Cossack settlements by "palankas", the economic activity of their inhabitants (Skalkovsky, 1846: 221-259). Analyzing the experience of the statistical description of the Novorosiiia region, the historian also mentioned Cossack settlements (Skalkovsky, 1853: 10 etc.).

Among the books of the pre-revolutionary period, directly dedicated to winter quarters, the work of Vasyl Bidnov (written under the pseudonym V. Stepovyi) should be singled out. It was this researcher who first singled out the winter quarters as a separate object of research and defined the role of Cossack settlements in the socio-economic history of the Zaporizhian Sich (Bidnov, 1916).

One of the most authoritative researchers of Cossack history is considered to be Dmytro Yavornytsky (Yavornytskyi, 1993). Studying various aspects of the Cossack past, the historian paid attention to the economic activity of the Cossacks. D. Yavornytskyi believed that Cossack settlements were farms and winter quarters, where family Cossacks were engaged in crafts and agriculture (Yavornytskyi, 1993: 251). Another historian, Dmytro Bahalii, supported him. At the same time, D. Bahalii recognized that the Cossacks, alongside military goals, set themselves the task of colonizing the Wild Fields, which the Cossacks considered to be a deserted region (Bagaley, 1889: 25).

In the Soviet era, the history of the Cossacks was mostly covered in general terms. Economic and ethnographic aspects were studied superficially, which led to the study of the creation of settlements and their economic status. Regarding the topic we are researching, there are publications from the 1920s and 1930s (Kirichenko, 1931; Slabchenko, 1923). Mikhail Kirichenko noted that the Cossacks settled on new, unoccupied lands "as primo occupanti, often without any permits and even without the knowledge of the Zaporizhian government" (Kirichenko, 1931: 61). Such resettlement also created new settlements. By the way, his colleague Mikhail Slabchenko, analyzing the economy of the Hetmanate (Left-Bank Ukraine), believed that *occupantio* and *labor* determined the entire policy of not only the Cossacks but also of the entire Ukrainian people" (Slabchenko, 1923: 46).

In the Soviet era, Elena Apanovich and Volodymyr Holobutsky were considered the most prominent experts on Cossack history. In their works, these scholars also examined the colonization processes of the Cossacks, and their creation of estates on new, unoccupied lands (Apanovich, 1999; Golobutsky, 1956).

After the proclamation of Ukraine's independence, the history of the Cossacks took one of the central places in Ukrainian historiography.

A significant number of scholars, and local historians, especially from Dnipro, Zaporizhian, Kherson, and Mykolaiv, are engaged in research on various aspects of the history of the Cossacks. Among them, the works of Anatoliy Boyko, Oleksandr Oliynyk, and Vasyl Pirko should be noted (Boyko, 2009; Oliynyk, 2005; Pirko, 2003; Pirko, 2004). A. Boyko and his student O. Oliynyk directly dealt with the formation of winter quarters, their genesis, and the economic activity of the Cossacks. They thoroughly investigated the colonization directions in steppe Ukraine, the conditions of existence of settlements, their economic development, and socio-cultural significance. V. Pirko focused his attention on the study of the settlement of Donbas, part of which is part of the Azov region.

The existing source base for this topic includes the memoirs of Erich Lasota, Guillaume Levasseur de Beauplan, and Prince Semen Myshetsky (Travel notes of E. Lassotas, 1873; Giyom de Boplan, 1990; Myshetsky, 1852). These people visited the Zaporozhian Sich in the 16th–18th centuries and left memoirs about their stay in the Cossack environment. They also described the Cossacks' housing, everyday life, and traditions. These documents formed the basis for further scientific research on the history of Ukraine and the Cossacks in particular.

Therefore, the historiographical and source bases indicate the need for further research on Cossack settlements. Moreover, scientists have thoroughly studied winter quarters, touching on other categories of settlements only in passing.

Life in the Northern Black Sea region has been boiling since ancient times. Being part of the area of many trade routes, the Black Sea coast was inhabited by various peoples, replacing each other over many centuries and at the same time leaving a piece of their culture in the studied region.

In the 13th century, the territory of the Northern Black Sea region became part of the Golden Horde. Soon, this country began to disintegrate into separate. In the 15th century, a large territory appeared, which in historiography received the name of the Wild Fields (in Latin "Loca Deserta"). At the beginning of its existence, the Wild Fields covered the steppe spaces from the Caspian to the Black Sea. It was believed that no one inhabited this territory and did not belong to any state. But the government of the Crimean Khanate, proclaiming itself the successor of the

Golden Horde, claimed territorial claims to the Black Sea and Azov lands. But the citizens of neighboring states of the Polish Kingdom, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the Moscow principalities did not care about this. Due to poverty, and economic, social, religious, and cultural oppression, men from these countries fled to the Wild Fields in search of booty and freedom. The historian D. Bahalii called this process "peaceful colonization" (Bagaley, 1889: 2). However, this does not correspond to reality, because there were clashes between the fugitives and the Crimean Tatars, as the scientist himself wrote more than once. His colleague M. Slabchenko spoke of free, uncontrolled peasant colonization (Slabchenko, 1923: 167), with which it is easier to agree. Among the fugitives, many were desperate but freedom-loving, desperate, capable of risk and adventure. Such people were called runaways, industrialists, and later - Cossacks. They came to the Field in the spring, hunted, fished, collected honey from wild bees, and returned home in the fall. That is why they received such a name – runaways. To protect themselves from robbers, they united in gangs.

In Ukraine, there were several categories of Cossacks. The runaways and industrialists laid the foundation for the most respected and courageous Cossacks – the Zaporizhian Cossacks. They were also called Zaporizhians or lower Cossacks. The first official mention of the Zaporizhian Cossacks appears in the "Polish Chronicle" by Martin Belsky in 1489 (Pirko, 2004: 21). This suggests that there were already many Cossacks on the Wild Fields, and they constituted a formidable military force. That means they had their settlements.

To define the housing of the Cossacks, researchers use the following terms: hut, burdock winter quarters, village, and later, from the 18th century, slobods (Oliynyk, 2005: 56, 88).

The word "burdiuh" (burdock) has Tatar origins and means a tarred turned-out animal skin for use as a container for liquid. However, the Cossacks called their dwelling that way - a semi-dugout. In a dug-out, four walls of brushwood were placed and earth was piled around. The top of the building was covered with reeds. The burdock was plastered with clay. The interior decoration was minimal – a stove for cooking food, a table, and a bench. Icons were an obligatory attribute (Yavornytskyi, 1990: 252).

The term "shalash" (hut) also has Turkic origins and is translated as a tent. Such dwellings were built in the summer. After all, this is the simplest light shelter, for the construction of which only sticks, branches, and stones are needed, and for covering – grass, turf, the bark of trees, and skins of animals. Huts were mainly built for fishing (Yavornytskyi, 1990: 81).

According to Oleksandr Oliynyk, settlements that were not subordinate to the

Zaporozhian Sich but were located within its borders were called huts (Oliynyk, 2005: 95). The settlements of the Cossacks were called winter quarters. Winter quarters are a type of hut and at the same time a certain modification of a house. The name itself shows that they were built to winter in the steppe. Dmytro Yavornytsky noted that the Cossacks build "first burdocks, then winter quarters and, finally, villages of family and non-family Zaporozhians" (Yavornytskyi, 1990: 59). Thus, the winter quarters were more capital-intensive than the burdocks.

Oliynyk believes that the basic centers of the bands of runaways, and later of the Cossacks, were the koshes, "where in the winter part of the band or artel of industrialists stayed at the head of their elected leader-father" (Oliynyk, 2005: 7) to protect the equipment. The term "*kosh*" also has Turkic origins and means state, camp (Oliynyk, 2005: 40).

Therefore, it can be seen that the first settlements were primitive and were designed as temporary shelters. The Crimean Tatars had a certain influence on the everyday life of industrialists and Cossacks, as seen from the lexicon that has survived to our time. The significant migration to the Wild Fields led to the emergence of the Cossacks as a separate estate and the creation of already stationary settlements by them.

The first information about the existence of Cossack settlements is found in the August 20, 1576, royal charter of the Polish king Stefan Batoriiia. Here, among other things, it is said: "From the Samara lands through the steppe to the Don itself, where even before the hetman Predslav Liantskoronskyi the Zaporizhian Cossacks had their winter quarters, and all that should remain forever with the Zaporizhian Cossacks..." (quoted from Oliynyk, 2005: 41). It is known that Predslav Liantskoronskyidied in 1531, and he made his first campaign against the Tatars in 1518. This means that the Zaporizhians had their winter quarters even before Lanckoroński's hetmanship, already in the 15th century.

Mykhailo Hrushevsky presented an interesting concept of the origin of the Cossacks in his book "Essays on the History of the Ukrainian People". He believed that the industrialists on the Wild Fields united into armed detachments at first to protect themselves from Tatar attacks. Gradually, the defense turned into an offensive, that is, the Cossacks themselves began to attack the Tatars (and not only them, but also merchants and in general any travelers). Among the industrialists, who by the end of the 15th century were already called Cossacks, some wanted to fight, not work. And so the men who were engaged in crafts hired such warriors to protect their property. Over time, these warriors united into a single army and formed the Zaporozhian Sich. Thus, according to M. Hrushevsky, the Cossacks arose (Hrushevskyi, 1990: 153-155).

According to the scientists, in the 15th century, there was a differentiation of runaways into Sich Cossacks, that is, those who were eager for military affairs, and Cossacks-nestlings (in Ukrainian "sydni"), who lived in winter quarters or villages and were engaged in farming.

The term "hnizdiuk" is derived from the word "nest". It is used in the phrase "to build a nest", one of the interpretations of which is "to arrange a family life, to improve your home." The word "sit" is to be in one place, not going to other lands. Thus, it was believed that the nestlings were mainly engaged in farming, but in case of need, they went on a campaign with the Zaporizhians.

At the turn of the 15th–16th centuries, crafts became an additional occupation of the Cossacks. Agriculture and cattle breeding come to the fore. And because of this, the area of the winter quarters significantly increases, because two or three owners lived here. So, there were already two or three houses with outbuildings: barns, stables, cellars, winter rooms for bees, etc. (Yavornytskyi, 199: 250). That is, temporary shelters from bad weather were replaced by large estates, where the inhabitants settled down thoroughly. Therefore, the houses were built comfortable and cozy. Unlike the Sich, where women were forbidden to stay, Cossack families lived in these settlements. To manage the economy, the Cossack government allocated people. Among the assistants could be both Zaporizhians and prisoners.

From this time, the main task of the nestlings was to supply food to the Sich people. In addition to economic activity, Cossack settlements had the functions of a modern hostel and dining room, where residents collected information, and important data was transmitted to the Sich. And in addition, the winter quarters remained a stronghold of the colonization of the southern territories.

As for the location of Cossack settlements, they were founded in special cities. A place was chosen to construct a winter quarter near a river, at the mouth of an adjacent ravine, or on a large island. This was due to the need for water for survival, farming, and shelter from bad weather. No less important was protection from enemy attacks. Therefore, many settlements were located on the coast of the Dnipro, Dniester, Don, and their tributaries. The Cossacks gradually settled in the southern regions: first in the area of modern central Ukraine, in the Donbas, and already in the 16th centenary they mastered the Black Sea and Azov (Pirko, 2003: 144).

After the establishment of the Nova Sich in 1734, the number of winter quarters increased significantly. They were divided among eight palankas. Most of them covered the territory between the Bug and Dniester rivers. Winter quarters were mainly located on the right bank of the Dnipro (Bagaley, 1889: 24-26).

As for the ownership of winter quarters and farms, it could be different. Any Cossack could set up a winter quarters or a farm. But over time, more and more settlements were created by wealthy Cossacks, Cossack officers, and hetmans, not only Zaporizhian but also Left-Bank and Sloboda, who settled in other regions of Ukraine. This is especially evident during the 18th century, after the establishment of the Nova Sich.

In general, from the very beginning of the formation of the Cossacks, its social peculiarity was diversity. Among the Cossacks were impoverished peasants, townspeople, wealthy people, and even nobles. It is worth mentioning only the founder of the Zaporizhian Sich, Dmytro Vyshnevetskyi, who had large landholdings in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. There were many descendants of nobles among the atamans and representatives of the Cossack officers, who had good family fortunes but considered it necessary for themselves to be Cossacks. As is known, the Cossack elite also received large incomes during successful military campaigns. After the victory, they received trophies and monetary rewards from monarchs. Therefore, they had the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship and establish winter quarters, and farms for farming. In these settlements, the Cossack elite settled family Cossacks or singles who for some reason could not fight.

In the 18th century, the Russian Empire actively fought against the Ottoman Empire and the Crimean Khanate for the Black Sea and Azov lands. Capturing these territories, the tsarist government actively built cities and fortresses here. For this, land was allocated to settlers from other empire regions and even Western European countries. And this led to the reduction of Cossack allotments.

The historiography has not yet determined the number of Cossack settlements. At one time, understanding the final elimination of the danger from the Turks and Tatars, who ravaged the border regions of neighboring states for centuries, the Russian Empire government decided to destroy the Zaporizhian Sich. For this, agents were sent to its territory under the guise of conducting fortification works. But these agents were also supposed to count the number of winter quarters and people living there. The numbers varied greatly. Thus, Prince S. Myshetskyi counted 4,000 winter quarters (Myshetskyi, 1852: 83), A. Skalkovsky, based on official reports, counted only 431 winter quarters in 4 palankas (Skalkovsky, 1846: 153). Modern historian A. Boyko, using a large source base, counted 5,767 Cossack settlements. And even he considers this figure incomplete (Boyko, 2009: 126). Therefore, this question remains unresolved.

However, no matter how many Cossack settlements there were after the liquidation of the Zaporizhian Sich in 1775, they were reorganized into villages, slobodas, and hamlets. According to A. Boyko, the villagers left their homesteads

because they could not pay the land tax. "In fact, by destroying the Zaporizhian winter quarters, the government itself turned Southern Ukraine into a "Wild Fields", to then spend huge sums of money to populate it", the historian summarizes (Boyko, 2009: 129). However, this does not correspond to reality. After immediately joining the Northern Black Sea region, the Russian Empire government began to develop cities, villages, and slobodas. Most of the new settlements were founded on the sites of Cossack's winter quarters. After all, their location corresponded to all the canons of urban planning of that time. Therefore, many winter quarters became part of the newly created settlements. It is known that such large cities as Yelysavethrad (now – Kropyvnytskyi), Katerynoslav (now – Dnipro), Mykolaiv, Oleksandriya (now – Zaporizhzhia), Kherson were built on the site of Cossack settlements. Mariupol, Velyka Lepetikha, Makiivka, and other cities of Donbas, the Northern Black Sea region, and the Azov Sea also "grew" from winter quarters. The list of modern villages is counted in thousands.

Thus, studying the history of Cossack settlements on the Northern black sea coast, we concluded that they existed from the 15th to the 18th centuries. Having emerged as temporary wintering places for industrialists, the settlements eventually became a critical economic and military-strategic factor in the history of both the Zaporizhian Cossacks and the general history of Ukraine. At the end of the 18th century, they turned out to be a significant factor in the organization of urban planning in the Northern Black Sea region.

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